



# Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez Newsletter



*"Education must not simply teach work, it must teach life." -W.E.B. Du Bois*

## In this Issue:

- Early Childhood Education Awareness Month
- T.E.A.M. Kids
- Nogales Rotary Student of the Quarter
- Catholic Schools Week
- Letter A Schools
- Family Science Night at Calabasas School
- College and Career Fairs
- CREO Program
- County Spelling Bee
- County E-Rate Consortium
- College Board AP recognizes SCVUSD #35
- Behavioral Integration Task Force
- Read Across America/Read on Santa Cruz County
- TECHNOLOchicas LiFT
- Young Audiences Performance
- Wade Carpenter Science Fair
- Costumes of the World
- 7th Annual Nogales Bicycle Classic
- Featured Employee

## Contact Information:

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone number: 520-375-7940

Address: 2150 N. Congress Drive, Ste. 107  
Nogales, AZ 85621

[Santa Cruz County  
School Superintendent's Office Website](#)

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and office staff would like to wish everyone good luck as we move into our testing season. As we move from winter to spring we are excited to see our students excel in academics as the school year begins to wind down. It is an exciting time of the year as we see our students spring into new beginnings and flourish in the opportunities that are presented to them. Our students make us proud to be a part of Santa Cruz County's educational communities.



Santa Cruz County School Superintendent  
Alfredo I. Velásquez reciting "Unity",  
a poem by Cleo V. Swarat

## Upcoming Events

CREO/Healthy Students Grant Reception | April 12

Teacher of the Year Kickoff Breakfast | April 26

Student Council Field Trip | April 27

Challenger Chorus | April 30

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week | May 7-11

## Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee



Above: Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee Coordinators Marisol Chiquete-Bolaina and Ms. Julie Ulrich

On February 2nd the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office held the annual County Spelling Bee. There were 24 contestants representing public, charter, and private schools from throughout Santa Cruz County; all battling to be crowned winner and represent Santa Cruz County in this year's State Spelling Bee held on March 24 in Phoenix, Arizona. This year's winner was seventh-grader Jian Tatil from Lourdes Catholic School, and the runner-up was eighth-grader Mariah Teel from Little Red School. It came down to round 17 when Tatil triumphed over Teel by spelling "strategy". Event coordinators from the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, Marisol Chiquete-Bolaina, and from

Nogales Unified School District #1, Julie Ulrich, would like to thank all the event judges and participants for making this another great event, and wish Jian Tatil good luck as he represents Santa Cruz County in the State Spelling Bee.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez stands with Lourdes Catholic School Principal Sandra Contreras, County Spelling Bee winner Jian Tatil, and his parents.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez stands with Little Red School teacher Ms. Amanda Dupuy, County Spelling Bee Runner-Up Mariah Teel, and her parents.

## County E-Rate Consortium

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office was very busy during the month of January as we were trying to create an E-Rate Consortium to establish better buying power for the school districts in our County. The buying power would be put towards discounted telecommunications services, especially internet prices. The federal agency providing oversight of the program is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). They allow public and most non-profit K-12 schools, as well as all public and many private libraries to be a part of the program. Participants in the program must carry out a competitive bidding process to select the most cost-effective companies to provide the services requested. As a consortium, we are able to group all those eligible and who wish to participate under one contract, and receive a competitive rate. This really helps to benefit our smaller school districts in the County as well as small local libraries who usually do not have the buying power that larger districts or sites would usually have. As of March, those who participated in the consortium were all able to receive an average of an 86% reduction in cost per Mbps versus current costs. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and his office would like to thank Nogales Unified School District #1, Patagonia Elementary #6, Patagonia Union High School #20, Sonoita Elementary School District #25, Santa Cruz Elementary School District #28, Santa Cruz Training Programs, Mexicayotl Academy, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Nogales/Santa Cruz County Public Library Branches in Sonoita, Tubac, Rio Rico, and Nogales for participating in the consortium and making it a success.

## Early Childhood Education Awareness Month

For the second consecutive year, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez and his office partnered with First Things First and the U of A Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz County to increase awareness about the importance of Early Childhood Education in Santa Cruz County. To kick off the month of activities devoted to Early Childhood Education, both the City of Nogales and Santa Cruz County officially proclaimed February as Early Childhood Education Awareness Month during their monthly meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The same day, Francisco Padilla from First Things First, Jennifer Argyros from the Family Resource Center, and Chris Young from the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office presented to local business owners and organizations at the monthly Government Affairs Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce meeting. The focus of the presentation was to explain the need for better Early Childhood Education in Santa Cruz County and give strategies to local businesses and organizations on what they can do to help.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> at Calabasas School, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual First Things First Celebrates the Young Child event brought together local organizations, parents, and young children to learn interactive strategies that parents can do at home to improve the education of their children.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and Nogales Rotary Club President Bobby Astengo congratulate Sylvia Brown at the Early Childhood Education Awareness Luncheon held at the Quality Hotel Americana.

Early Childhood Legislation Day was celebrated on February 15 with the U of A Cooperative Extension driving to the state capital with parents motivated to talk to our legislators about what is being done about improving Early Childhood Education in our community. Since reading is a primary learning activity for Early Childhood Education, during the entire month of February, the Nogales and Rio Rico public libraries hosted story time every Wednesday morning. Additionally, the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office organized volunteers to read at all Preschools in Santa Cruz County during the week of February 12<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office in partnership with the Nogales Rotary Club hosted a luncheon to recognize the commitment and dedication of the Santa Cruz County Early Childcare Educators at the Quality Hotel Americana Nogales. The event was designed to honor the remarkable work that our Santa Cruz County Preschools and other Early Childhood Education Providers are doing to ensure the educational success of our young children. Approximately 70 administrators, directors and educators representing preschools and educational organizations throughout Santa Cruz County were in attendance. Mr. Thomas Tellez and Ms. Silvia Brown were recognized for having over 40 years of service in Early Childhood Education in Santa Cruz County.

The Coup de Gras for Early Childhood Education Month was a STEMAZING Workshop taught by Danel Hogan from the Pima County School Superintendent's Office and hosted by the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office. Twenty-seven Early Childhood Educators spent Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, learning a variety of STEM activities that they can do with their students.

Many people are not aware that from birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more rapidly than at any other time in life. For example, 90% of a child's brain develops by age 5. Knowing this information, one can imagine the impact education has on young children and how it determines future success.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez poses with early childhood educators and students from Head Start.



Above: Early Childhood Educators in attendance at the STEMAZing workshop held at the Santa Cruz County Complex



## Rio Rico High School Receives College Board AP 2018 District of the Year Award



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez congratulates Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35's Rio Rico High School AP teachers, students, and parents.

Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35 was awarded the honor of being named College Board AP 2018 District of the Year. This is the second national award received this year by Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35, who was named Cambridge International School District of the Year for 2018. Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35 is the second school district in Arizona history to have received the College Board AP award, and it goes without saying that all of Santa Cruz County is proud of this astounding accomplishment and the work they are doing in Rio Rico. On March 21st, Rio Rico High School held a ceremony for all the AP teachers, students, and parents to recognize their contributions to this amazing honor. Also in attendance at the ceremony was Diane Douglas, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, Peter Laing, Arizona Deputy Associate Superintendent, Alfredo I.

Velásquez, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent, and Barbara Cronan, College Board Vice President of Membership, and also the Presenter of the Award. Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and his office staff would like to congratulate Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35 for all of their accomplishments. -HAWK PRIDE!

## Nogales Rotary Club Student of the Quarter

Every quarter the Nogales Rotary Club in partnership with the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez recognize students throughout Nogales for their qualities as individuals. The Rotary Club recognizes these ethical qualities as the Four Way Test, which are:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Students from throughout Nogales are recognized and congratulated by both Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and Nogales Rotary Club President Bobby Astengo. Along with being recognized by both of these gentlemen, the student's teacher is given the opportunity to speak about their respective student, and the student is also presented with the opportunity to thank those who helped make him/her the person they have become. It is truly a wonderful opportunity to help recognize the outstanding students we have in our community.



Left: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and Nogales Rotary Club President Bobby Astengo stand with March High School Student of the Quarter winners and their school representative.

## Governing Board Elections

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office has been very busy organizing all the essential paperwork for the 2018 November Elections. There are a number of seats open for election in all school districts this year, which include:

NUSD #1 - 2 Seats - 4 Year Terms

Patagonia Elem. #6 - 2 Seats - 4 Year Terms

Patagonia U.H.S. #20 - 3 Seats - Two 4 Year Terms and One 2 Year Term

Sonoita #25 - 2 Seats - 4 Year Terms

SCESD #28 - 2 Seats - 4 Year Terms

SCVUSD #35 - 3 Seats - 4 Year Terms

SCCPCCD - 3 Seats - Two 6 Year Terms and One 2 Year Term

If you would like to request more information about the upcoming elections feel free to call our office and ask for Chris Young or Patricia Barraza-Preciado as they are the two elections certified personnel.

## Cameron Jeong's Young Audiences Senior Project

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Nogales High School Auditorium, Cameron Jeong in conjunction with Young Audiences, hosted a benefit concert as part of her Senior Project. It was a wonderful event that showcased some of our young talented musicians, dancers, and singers. The Nogales High School Mariachi also performed several songs and individual solos. The event was well attended by the community and it was a successful fundraiser. All funds are being donated to the Santa Cruz County Young Audiences Chapter.

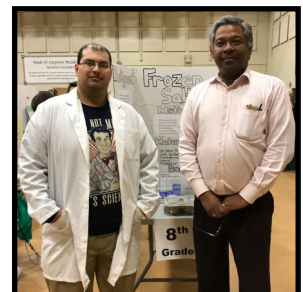


Left: Multiple student performances at the Young Audiences Benefit Concert

## Wade Carpenter Middle School Science Fair

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Wade Carpenter Middle School hosted its annual Science Fair. There was an array of science exhibits displayed that highlighted the talents of the student's projects. Every project was accompanied by research thesis and interesting documentation of the student's findings. The curiosity of the young scientists at Wade Carpenter Middle School made this a very extraordinary event with many parents attending as well as community members. Ms. Maya Donnelly, CREO Director, was one of the judges that attended this educational and fascinating science exhibition. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office sponsored the prizes. Congratulations to all the students, teachers, and Administration. Special thanks to Mr. George Thomas and the Science Department.

Right: CREO Program Director, Maya Donnelly stands with Wade Carpenter Middle School student and her exhibit. Far Right: Mr. George Thomas stands with Wade Carpenter Middle School Science Teacher Mr. Carrasco.



## Congratulations Letter A Schools!

During the month of October, nearly all Arizona schools received a letter grade (A-F) by the Arizona Department of Education. The letter grades were given based on various factors such as standardized test scores on the AZMERIT, graduation rates, and how well schools are preparing students for post secondary careers. Alfredo I. Velásquez is congratulating all schools throughout Santa Cruz County for receiving a letter grade of “A” by delivering them a congratulatory cake. Congratulations again to these schools and thank you for representing Santa Cruz County in such a positive way. The schools that received an A rating included:



Above: Marisol Chiquete-Bolaina, Santa Cruz Elementary # 28 Superintendent Kathy Romero, and Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez at Little Red School

- Elgin Elementary School
- Francisco Vasquez de Coronado Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Little Red Schoolhouse
- Mexicayotl Charter School
- Robert M. Bracker Elementary School



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and Bracker Elementary Principal Tim Colgate stand with Bracker Elementary students

## U.S. Border Patrol T.E.A.M. Kids

United States Border Patrol Agent Alan Regalado, a native of Santa Cruz County, created a program targeting fifth graders after he had observed teen drug smuggling as a major issue in the community. He found that Operation Detour, another Border Patrol Program, was implemented a little too late for most students because by the time they were introduced to the material, many teens had already fallen victim to criminal organizations. Targeting a younger audience was his solution. The program stands for Together Educating And Mentoring Kids, and covers topics that include zero tolerance, choices and consequences, as well as peer pressure and bullying. The T.E.A.M. Kids program is broken down into a four week program for an hour per week. Agent Regalado started a pilot program in select Santa Cruz County schools, and now has plans to expand. Agent Regalado has been busy attending the Superintendent’s Meetings here at the County Complex, as well as County School Superintendents Meetings in Phoenix, AZ so he can implement the program on a statewide level, with hopes to becoming nationally recognized.



Above: United States Border Patrol Agent Alan Regalado instructs students on the consequences of teen drug smuggling.



Above: Agent Regalado instructs students on how smugglers target different aspects of a community through a visual model.



## Family Science Night at Calabasas School

On March 22nd, Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District#35 at Calabasas School hosted a Family Science Night. Families from throughout District #35 were invited to attend the event and participate in the hands on activities. In attendance were representatives from various science communities who displayed rocks and minerals, live snakes and reptiles, a cockatoo and a macaw, and much more. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office representatives Maya Donnelly and Dakota Beach were there to quiz children and their parents with STEM Trivia Questions and to offer students the chance to compete in a Lego Challenge of their choice. Prizes were given out including a water bottle, pencil, book marker, and bracelet. Informational packets about the CREO Project were given to prospective 8th graders and their parents, as well as a chance to see some of the equipment that is used in the MetroMatemáticas Elective. TECHNOLOchicas posters and information about summer camps were also available to the public.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office CREO Program Director Maya Donnelly instructing a young student on a Lego Challenge



Left: One of the displays at the Family Science Night included three beautiful parrots, one of which included this extravagant cockatoo

## Catholic Schools Week



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez congratulates students from Sacred Heart Catholic School with Principal Vanessa Rothstein and Chief Deputy Chris Young

During the week of January 28 to February 3, two Santa Cruz County Catholic Schools participated in Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme was "Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed," and Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez was honored to be included in the celebrations held by Sacred Heart Catholic School and Lourdes Catholic School. Velásquez finds every educational community in Santa Cruz County important. When it comes to students in our County, there are no boundaries between public, private, and charter schools. It is about our student's educational opportunities and their academic accomplishments. Aside from attending Honors

Mass, Velásquez also visited both schools and congratulated the staff and students with a celebratory cake.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez congratulates Lourdes Catholic School Office Staff with a celebratory Catholic Schools Week cake

## College and Career Fairs



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent stands with Wade Carpenter Middle School Student

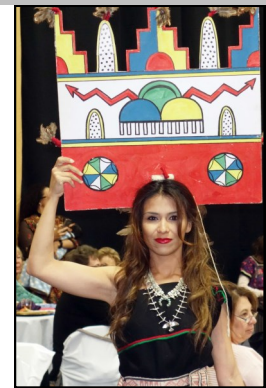
The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office attended two College and Career Fairs during the months of January, February and March. The events were held at Wade Carpenter Middle School and Patagonia Union High School. At the events, the office promoted educational careers, discussed the duties and responsibilities of our office, and promoted the various grants which our office oversees.



Above: Mariposa Community Health Center Employees on stage during a Q&A Panel at the 2018 Rotary Career Fair at Patagonia Union High School

## Costumes of the World

On March 10th, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent was honored to be the guest emcee for Pimería Alta's "Costumes of the World" event. The event was held as a fundraiser to benefit the Pimería Alta Historical Society, and brought in people from throughout Santa Cruz County. The costumes on display were from various countries throughout the world, and they were put on display by various women from our community. Byanca Parra, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Chief Deputy Chris Young's wife, was honored to display costumes from the Native American Hopi Indians and the country of Ecuador. Many of those in attendance were in awe as they saw the brilliant display of costumes and generations of history that were put on display, and the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office was proud to be a part of the event.



Above: Byanca Parra models a corn maiden dance dress worn by Hopi Indians

## 7th Annual Nogales Bicycle Classic

The 7th Annual Nogales Bicycle Classic was held on Saturday March 24th, and it turned out to be a great event. Over two-hundred bicyclists registered in the event, and proceeds raised helped benefit Circles of Peace. Circles of Peace, located in Nogales, AZ, is a social justice organization committed to advancing a holistic and culturally sensitive approach to treating domestic violence locally, nationally and internationally. Circles of Peace is one of the first Domestic Violence treatment and prevention programs that uses a restorative justice circle approach to reduce violent behaviors in families.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Accounting Specialist Dakota Beach stands with Scotty, Elysse, and Brad Beach before riding in the 7th Annual Nogales Bicycle Classic.

Since 2004, they have been working to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Circles of Peace now represents a model for discussion and replication across the nation. Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and his office sponsored the 1st Annual Nogales Bike Classic and love being a part of the event every year. This year, his office Accounting Specialist Dakota Beach entered the race with his father, sister and cousin. His sister, Elysse Beach, took second place in the women's 40.1 mile ride. Ms. Beach, is a former Coronado Elementary School teacher at NUSD #1 and alumni of Rio Rico High School.



## CREO Program



Above: Nogales High School Math Instructor Jigar Mehta with NHS CREO Math Students at the U of A.

CREO/ Youth CareerConnect Program students from Nogales and Rio Rico High Schools spent a day expanding their horizons at the Advancement of Latinos in Engineering and Young Latina Forum hosted by the University of Arizona Society of Hispanic and Professional Engineers. Sophomores and Juniors in their second year of the CREO Math Program attended this annual event for the third consecutive year on February 9, 2018.

Accompanying the 36 students were CREO Math instructors Jigar Mehta from NHS, Tom Maddock, and Rosa Maria Cardenas from RRHS, and CREO Program Director, Maya Donnelly. This educational field trip which brought together high school students from Southern Arizona, was designed to be an engaging, hands-on day of networking.

U of A Engineering students and alumni organized a

STEM challenge which consisted of guest speakers, a panel discussion, and three challenging workshops. Teams were randomly selected to move through these workshops and use their critical thinking skills, leadership techniques, and communication styles to build a vehicle, construct a bridge, and participate in a competition. Completed projects were scored based on a rubric and winning groups were awarded prizes donated from local business and industry. Students from both Nogales and Rio Rico were members of the first and second place teams and walked away with a prize and an invaluable experience of meeting new people with similar interests and having the chance to showcase the skills they are learning in their classrooms.

The CREO Math Program, in Year II, features the MetroMatematicas curriculum along with the Six Sigma Yellow Belt Practicum. Currently, 17 students at Rio Rico High School and 19 students at Nogales High School are preparing to complete the practicum and earn a White Belt Certificate and a Yellow Belt Diploma in Lean Six Sigma.

## Read Across America/Read On Santa Cruz County

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and his office celebrated, National Read across America/Read on Santa Cruz County Week. 35 Preschools, Private Schools, Charter Schools and Public Elementary Schools within our County were a part of the celebration.

With the coordination of Ms. Patricia Barraza-Preciado from the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, over 130 volunteers from all across Santa Cruz County were able to read to each and every classroom in our educational community. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Roni Capin-Ashford, was invited to read at three County schools and do a book signing event at the Americana/Quality Inn, for the book *Coco*. Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and Santa Cruz County Attorney George Silva were gracious enough to sponsor *Coco* books to all third graders in the County for the event.

The main goal of this event is to encourage our children to read and love to read at an early age. It's one of the most important things we can do as parents and as a community. It sets the foundation for a lifetime of suc-

cess. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and office staff, would like to thank each and every one who volunteered a couple of hours of their busy day to participate in this wonderful event.



Left: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez with kindergarten teacher Mr. Hector Fonceerrada and his students from A.J. Mitchell

## Behavioral Integration Task Force



Above: Representatives from various agencies, schools, and health care providers in attendance at the first Behavioral Health Integration Task Force Meeting

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, Adolescent Wellness Network, and Mariposa Community Health Center are joining forces to create a task force linking behavioral health agencies with schools. The goal is to create partnerships with the goal of integrating services into the schools in our county. The first task force meeting took place on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Several agencies, school representatives and health care providers were in attendance forming discussion groups in order to formulate solutions. This is only the first of many meetings which will potentially lead to full integration with the possibility of having agencies and providers readily available at the school sites working cooperatively with teachers, administrators and staff providing direct services to our students. Organizers for the task force include Cassalyn David, Chris Bachelier, Janet Annett and Teresa Sprigg.

## Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Awarded Funds for TECHNOLOchicas LiFT Program

The Televisa Foundation and the LULAC Institute, with the support of the Intel Foundation, selected four Santa Cruz County middle schools to participate in the Intel She Will Connect: TECHNOLOchicas LiFT Initiative. In partnership with Alfredo I. Velásquez and the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office, a grant was awarded to Desert Shadows, Wade Carpenter, Calabasas, and Coatimundi middle schools where each will each receive \$15,000 to fund an after-school club for girls.

TECHNOLOchicas LiFT was developed to increase the number of girls in Hispanic communities pursuing technology-related studies by the time they reach high school. A curriculum designed to empower, excite, encourage, and engage girls in computer programming, coding, and robotics is being implemented by site facilitators and assistants on each campus twice a week from January 2018 – April 2018. Funds are being used for classroom supplies, robotic kits, refreshments, travel for field trips, parent engagement, and sustaining the program in the years to come. Enrollment is set for 25 girls per school, and an application process was followed for acceptance in to the program. Aside from weekly meetings, club members were invited to a state-wide event held at the University of Arizona on March 2, 2018. Girls were given the opportunity to network with other middle schools and the official TECHNOLOchicas panel of females in technology fields. This was a chance for Santa Cruz County students to ask questions and share ideas with role models who work for NASA, Microsoft, Qualcomm, Pinterest, and many other corporations. This panel shared



Above: Members of the official TECHNOLOchicas female panel of experts at the state-wide event to answer questions to young female students in the program.

their stories of success and how being well-rounded students was so important. Being bilingual, self-confident, hard-working, and creative were also discussed as positive attributes when it comes to pursuing a career in technology. The event was highlighted by workshops dedicated to building teamwork, critical thinking skills, and communication all centered around topics related to engineering, coding, and other types of technology.



## Staff Member Spotlight!



Above: Patricia Barraza-Preciado with her husband Luis Preciado and granddaughters Camilla and Catalina

The native Nogalian and former NHS graduate (GO APACHES) returned to her hometown and began working for Santa Cruz County 6 years ago, after living away from the County for the past 25 years. Patricia started at the Treasurer's Office before moving to the position of Accounting Specialist/Special Events Coordinator with the School Superintendent's Office. Patricia truly enjoys every aspect of her duties, she stated "that every day is different and working with teachers, students and her co-workers, is a blessing." She enjoys her duties, organizing the annual Teacher of the Year Awards Dinner is one she absolutely looks forward to every year.

Living in Nogales back in the early 80's, Patricia obtained her Real Estate license and she and her late husband (Manuel) started a construction firm. They also started a family, consisting of two daughters and a son. Owning a construction company had them moving to two different cities in two different countries. They moved to Hermosillo, Sonora Mexico and lived there for 12 years and then to San Diego, California for 13 years. In both cities, Patricia worked as a realtor, and dabbled in interior decorating and staging model homes. Patricia served as a Board of Director to Colegio Regina and Colegio Regis, the two schools her children attended in Mexico. One of her passions, was serving as a volunteer to several non-profit organizations in Hermosillo and as a treasurer to one in Tijuana.

Patricia is now newly married to Luis Preciado (a recognized artist and Probation Officer, with the County) and is now a grandmother to two adorable granddaughters who live in San Diego. She states that "she never knew that being a grandparent would be the highlight of her life, and traveling to go visit them on a regular basis, is the adventure she most looks forward to."

## Meet the Staff



Alfredo I. Velásquez  
Santa Cruz County  
School Superintendent



Christopher Young  
Chief Deputy  
Santa Cruz County School  
Superintendent's Office



Teresa A. Sprigg  
Governor's Healthy  
Families/Healthy Youth  
and Healthy Students  
Program Director  
SCCSSO



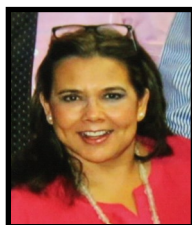
Maya Donnelly  
CREO and  
TECHNOchicas Program  
Director  
SCCSSO



Danna Gallardo  
Education Director  
Santa Cruz County  
Juvenile Detention  
Education Program



Marisol Chiquete-  
Bolaina  
Bookkeeper  
SCCSSO



Patricia Barraza-Preciado  
Accounting Specialist  
SCCSSO



Dakota L. Beach  
Accounting Specialist  
SCCSSO



Sergio Delgado  
Office Clerk  
SCCSSO



Edgar Torres  
Office Clerk  
SCCSSO